

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 EB-11 TRSE-00 AID-20 AGR-20 HEW-08 COME-00

CAB-09 FAA-00 DRC-01 /169 W  
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R 221715Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3806

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRD JM CU

SUBJ: JAMAICAN TRADE MISSION TO CUBA

1. SUMMARY: ON HIS RETURN FROM TRADE MISSION TO CUBA DUDLEY THOMPSON WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT TRADE PROSPECTS, BUT DECLINED TO GIVE SPECIFICS. DAILY GLEANER GIVES FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO EFFECT OF CUBA TRADE ON US AID PROGRAMS. CUBA TRADE QUESTION MAY NOW BE IN CLEARER PERSPECTIVE BUT PM WILL PROBABLY WISH TO AVOID ISSUE DURING THE PRESENT PAROCHIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON HIS JAN 19 RETURN FROM LEADING A SIX-DAY, 22 MEMEBER TRADE MISSION TO CUBA, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PM'S OFFICE DUDLEY THOMPSON TOLD REPORTERS THAT FULL TRADE BETWEEN JAMAICA AND CUBA WOULD BEGIN "SNOWBALLING" NEXT YEAR AND THAT IN TWO YEARS' TIME EXPORT TRADE WITH CUBA WOULD RANK WITH OTHER MAJOR CARIBBEAN TRADING PARTNERS. HE SAID THAT THE MISSION NOT ONLY BROUGHT BACK SUBSTANTIAL MATERIAL BENEFITS, BUT IT HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH CUBA FOR COLLABORATION IN THE TECHNOLOGICAL, INDUSTRIAL, TRADE, AGRICULTURAL AND MEDICAL FIELDS. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO CITE SPECIFIC DETAILS, THOMPSON SAID THE  
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MISSION HAD BEEN AN "OUTSTANDING SUCCESS" AND THAT THE CUBAN

AUTHORITIES' RESPONSE TO JAMAICA'S SUGAR SHORTAGE HAD BEEN  
"HEARTWARMING AND GENEROUS."

3. OTHER MEMBERS OF \*HE MISSION SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT BROUGHT BACK ANYTHIN CONCRETE, THEY HAD GAINED SUBSTANTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF HOW THE CUBAN MARKET WAS STRUCTURED AND THAT JAMAICAN EXPORTERS NOW HAD TERMS OF REFERENCE UNDER WHICH TO SUPPLY A LIST OF PRODUCTS TO CUBAN DISTRIBUTING AGENCIES. AMONG THE POTENTIAL PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT, THE MISSION MEMBERS LISTED LOCALLY MADE HEAVY INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMER GOODS SUCH AS HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND LIGHT FABRICATED GOODS FOR CONSTRUCTION. I\* WAS ALSO MENTIONED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY FOR AIR JAMAICA TO COMMENCE SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO CUBA.

5. CARLTON ALEXANDEW, CHAIRMAN OF THE JAMAICA NATIONAL EXPORT CORP. AND A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER YES-TERDAY THAT, WHILE THERE WAS A POTENTIAL MARKET IN CUBA FOR JAMAICAN PRODUCTS (HE ALSO MENTIONED POULTRY), AS THE CUBAN ECONOMY IS CAREFULLY PLANNED IN ADVANCE, THERE WERE FEW POSSIBILITIES FOR SIGNIFICANT SALES UNTIL 1975. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PERHAPS THOMPSON HAD OVERSTATED THE CASE, BUT SAID THAT THERE WERE HOPES FOR MINOR SALES TO CUBA, EVEN THOUGH CUBA'S PLANS WERE ALREADY SET IN CONCRETE. WHEN ASKED WHAT JAMAICA COULD EXPECT TO IMPORT FROM CUBA, ALEXANDER HAD NO IDEAS, BUT SIAD THAT CUBA WOULD POSSIBLY PAY FOR IMPORTS WITH CANADIAN DOLLARS OR STERLING.

5. IN ITS LEAD NEWS ITEM JAN 22, THE GLEANER CARRIED THE SUBSTANCE OF AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CHARGE WHICH IT HAD REQUESTED ON JAN 21. THE ITEM IS AN ACCURATE, STRAIGHT-FORWARD EXPOSITION OF THE EFFECT ON US AID PROGRAMS OF VARIOUS KINDS OF TRADE WITH CUBA AND IN ITS CLARITY CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE GENERALIZED AND OPTIMISTIC REPORT MADE BY THOMPSON ON THE PROSPECTS FOR CUBAN TRADE. IT CITES OAS DECISIONS ON CUBA AS BASIS FOR US POLICY. THE PM TELEPHONED THE CHARGE THIS MORNING TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE GOJ WAS FULLY COGNIZANT OF US LAW AND THAT THE GOJ HAD NO INTENTION OF VIOLATING IT. THE CHARGE TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS MERELY RESPONDING TO A STRAIGHT-FORWARD PRESS INQUIRY FOR FACTS.

6. COMMENT: THE EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS AND OPINIONS IN THE LAST  
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FEW DAYS HAS, WE BELIEVE, HAD THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF PLACING THE ENTIRE CUBAN PROBLEM IN BETTER PERSPECTIVE CALLING ATTENTION TO SOME OF THE HOLLOWNESS OF THOMPSON'S RHETORIC AND OPTIMISM, EVEN THOUGH IT COULD ALSO BRING FORTH CRIES OF "BIG POWER CHAUVINISM." MANY JAMAICANS, ENCOURAGED BY WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE SIGNS OF A THAW IN US-CUBAN RELATIONS, CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE US IS REALLY NOT SERIOUS IN ITS CUBAN POLICY AND THAT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE US, ITSELF, BECOMES INTERESTED IN CUBA

TRADE. HAVING BEEN CAUGHT SHORT BY A FORTHRIGHT EXPOSITION OF THE  
EFFECTS OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF TRADE UNDER US LAW, IT IS POSSIBLE  
THAT THOMPSON AND THE CUBANS MAY UP THE POLITICAL ANTE BY ANN-  
OUNCING SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT IN THE AID FIELD - THEY CAME ON  
STRONG IN THE AFTERMATH OF LAST YEAR'S TROPICAL STORM "GILDA."  
WITH THE PNP FACING LOCAL ELECTIONS ON FEB 5, HOWEVER, IT IS  
UNLIKELY THAT THE PM WILL WISH TO PURSUE THE ISSUE.  
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## Message Attributes

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